



**BLETCHLEY**  
**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
for the year  
**1937**



**BLETCHLEY**  
**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

for the year

**1937**



To the Chairman and Councillors of the  
Urban District of Bletchley

---

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report of your Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937. This report has been drawn up according to the instructions of the Minister of Health in Circular 1650.

Public Health measures continued to make good progress during the year, and amongst the most important Acts which came into force were the Housing Act, 1936, which consolidated the Housing Acts of 1925-1935, the Public Health Act of 1936, which amends and co-ordinates the multiplicity of legislation from 1875 onwards, and also the Midwifery Act, 1936, which should be of great value in reducing the Maternal Mortality. Important laws were passed in 1937 including the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act which amended the laws in respect of the disposal of trade effluent, the Air Raid Precautions Act 1937, and the Physical Training and Recreation Act 1937 which provided for the development of facilities for and the encouragement of physical training and recreation.

All the above enactments will play their part in the health and well-being of Bletchley, thus it is that the Physical Training and Recreation Act will be the means of this Council being able to take immediate steps to obtain a swimming bath.

1937 was also noteworthy on account of the inauguration of a National Health Campaign, which in this town led to the Health Exhibition of March, 1938.

Throughout the year, the Public Health work has been facilitated by the willing help of the various departments of the Urban District and County Councils. The co-operation between the medical practitioners of the district and the Council has been good, with resulting benefit to the inhabitants.

It is my pleasure to record my gratitude for the wholehearted manner in which the members of the Council have constantly supported and encouraged me.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A. MICHAEL CRITCHLEY.

# Urban District of Bletchley

---

## ANNUAL REPORT

of the  
Medical Officer of Health

for the year

# 1937

---

Chairman of the Council : Councillor C. D. Flack, J.P.

**Finance and General Purposes Committee :**

Chairman : Councillor J. F. Smith, J.P.

Councillors H. Beckett, H. P. Dimmock, J.P., C. D. Flack, J.P., and  
A. J. Stevens, J.P.

**Housing and Recreation Grounds Committee :**

Chairman : Councillor O. Wells, J.P.

Councillors E. J. Boyce, C. D. Flack, J.P., S. Maycock, J. F. Smith,  
J.P., and A. J. Stevens, J.P.

**Public Health Staff :**

Medical Officer of Health :

A. Michael Critchley, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health  
for the Borough of Buckingham and Assistant County Medical Officer  
for Bucks.

Sanitary Inspector :

A. Bates, M.Inst.M.&Cy.E., A.M.T.P.I., M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,  
(Certificate R.S.I.&S.I. Joint Board, and Certificate  
R.S.I. Meat and Food Inspection).



## *Summary of Statistics (continued)*

	1937	1936
Infantile Mortality Rate for Bucks ...	40.4	44.9
Infantile Mortality Rate for England & Wales ...	58	59
Deaths from Measles ... ..	0	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough ... ..	0	1
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0	0
Principal Causes of Death:		
	M. F. T.	M. F. T.
Influenza ... ..	2 0 2	3 1 4
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	2 2 4	1 0 1
Other Tuberculosis ... ..	0 0 0	1 1 2
Cancer ... ..	6 9 15	9 7 15
Diabetes ... ..	0 0 0	2 1 3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ... ..	2 3 5	3 2 5
Heart Disease ... ..	11 9 20	8 2 10
Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	3 4 7	3 2 5
Bronchitis ... ..	5 2 7	2 1 3
Pneumonia ... ..	4 1 5	1 0 1
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	0 0 0	1 1 2
Digestive Diseases ... ..	1 3 4	3 2 5
Nephritis ... ..	0 1 1	0 0 0
Puerperal Pyrexia and Fever ...	0 0 0	0 0 0
Congenital Causes ... ..	4 1 5	3 2 5
Senility ... ..	6 2 8	4 8 12
Violence (including Suicide) ...	1 1 2	0 1 1
Other defined diseases ... ..	5 0 5	4 3 7
Total ... ..	52 38 90	49 40 89



A study of the above statistics reveals some interesting facts.

The Birth Rate, which rose in 1936, continues its upward trend and is now 14.9 per 1,000 for England and Wales whilst in Bletchley it has increased to 18.3 and is the highest rate in the County. The Death Rate for Bletchley has fallen slightly, but has risen a little for the whole country. The Maternal Mortality figures for England and Wales show a definite decrease, and it is good to note that there has been no maternal death in Bletchley. Unfortunately, the Infantile Mortality for the district is higher than in 1936. In a community of the size of Bletchley, one death makes quite a difference to the death rates, and this increase in infantile mortality was due to three deaths in the beginning of the year from Bronchial Pneumonia.

### **SOCIAL CONDITIONS**

No new factories have been started in Bletchley during 1937, but an extension has been made to the clothing factory and gives further employment. The London, Midland and Scottish Railway, brickworks, saw-mills, printing works, brush factories, sugar refinery and horticultural nursery continue to be the main sources of employment for this area.

## **SECTION B.**

### **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES**

- i. Public Health Staff—see page one of Report.

### **HEALTH SERVICES**

- ii. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

During 1937 the pathological and chemical work of the town was performed by the Clinical Research Association (London) and the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

The following examinations were made :—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Swabs for Diphtheria Bacilli ...	20	88	108
Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli ...	2	11	13
Swabs for Hæmolytic			
Streptococci, etc. ...	0	8	8
Faeces for Typhoid Bacilli ...	0	1	4
Number of Bacteriological Analyses of Water ...			4
Number of Chemical Analyses of Water ...			4
Number of Chemical Analyses of Sewage ...			10

The number of swabs examined was still high but less than in 1936. There was an increase in the water and sewage analyses and an account of investigations in connection with the proposed extensions to the sewage works.

(b) Ambulance facilities:

1. Infectious Diseases : The new motor ambulance of the North Bucks Joint Isolation Hospital continued to transport infectious cases in a prompt and effective manner.

2. Non-infectious Cases and Accidents : The British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John continued to carry out their most valuable work in connection with the transport of cases.

The motor ambulance, however, has seen its best days, and following discussions between these bodies and the Urban District Council an amicable arrangement was arrived at by which the Council should purchase a new motor ambulance and should assume financial responsibility for it, whilst the voluntary personnel of the ambulance should continue to perform their splendid work relieved of any monetary worries.

(c) Nursing Facilities:

The nurses employed by the Bletchley and District Nursing Federation continued to carry out domiciliary and maternity nursing in a most satisfactory manner.

(d) Clinics:

Maternity and Child Welfare

This clinic, held at the Temperance Hall, was organised by the voluntary helpers assisted by a grant from the County Council. The sessions were attended by the district nurses and the Medical Officer of Health. The following figures show that the number of attendances has nearly doubled during the past three years :—

	Attendances			New Members	
	Mothers	Babies		Mothers	Babies
1935 ... ..	692	691	...	55	59
1936 ... ..	915	909	...	72	73
1937 ... ..	1102	1134	...	79	81

This is a very satisfactory state of affairs and shows that the enthusiastic efforts of the helpers and officials have been appreciated by the mothers of the district.

At this clinic, the mothers received advice with regard to themselves and their children, and were referred to the appropriate place for treatment when required. Many children over one year were protected against diphtheria by injections, so that gradually a protected population is being developed.

The present Infant Welfare Centre is not very satisfactory, and both the helpers and especially the examining doctors, work under difficulties. However, a start has been made with the erection of a clinic in the grounds of the Bletchley Road School and when it is completed the present clinic will be transferred to the new building and should be run much more smoothly and efficiently as a result of the improved amenities.

### School Clinics

There was no proper school clinic in Bletchley, but the building in the course of erection will probably be used in connection with school children. Eye cases have been seen in special sessions at the Bletchley Road Girls' School. Orthopædic defects were examined at the County Council Orthopædic Clinic in Newport Pagnell, and received treatment, either there or in special hospitals.

### Venereal Diseases

There was no clinic for the diagnosis and treatment of County Council for free consultation and treatment at the these disorders. Arrangements have been made by the Northampton General Hospital, Bedford County Hospital and the Royal Bucks Hospital.

#### (e) Hospitals:

Small Pox: North Bucks Smallpox Hospital, Woughton.

Infectious Disease: North Bucks Joint Isolation Hospital at Grove, near Linslade.

Tuberculosis: Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium at Peppard.

Voluntary Hospitals serving this area, but not subsidised by the Council :—

Northampton General Hospital.

Bedford County Hospital.

Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury.

The various London Hospitals.

During the year, the Woburn Cottage Hospital was closed down following the death of the Duchess of Bedford, who was not only the chief financial support of the hospital

but also actually assisted in the examination and treatment of patients.

A Bletchley Hospital Scheme has proved of great value throughout the year. Contributors make a small weekly subscription and become entitled to treatment at almost any hospital in the kingdom. This type of scheme is of much more value to a community such as in Bletchley than any scheme limiting admission to one hospital.

## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### i. Water :

During the year a commencement has been made on a new 9-inch main from the Council's Water Works at Sandhouse to their reservoirs at Little Brickhill. This work is being carried out in order to augment and improve the supply of water for the Urban Area so as to provide for the present steady expansion of the town.

The consumption of water for domestic purposes has been equivalent to 23 gallons per person per day. This is an increase on previous years and is no doubt due to the rapidly increasing proportion of house property in the district fitted with baths and water closets.

A recent analysis of water gives the following results :

#### SANDHOUSE WELL SUPPLY

##### Physical Characters :

Reaction : Neutral.

Colour in 2ft. stratum : Slightly turbid greenish yellow.

Suspended matters : Slight amount of mineral matter (iron).

Odour when warmed to 37 deg. C.: Nil.

##### Chemical Characters :

	Parts per 100,000	Grains per Gallon.
Total Solids (dried at 100 deg. C.) ...	22.50	15.75
Loss on ignition (after re-carbonating) ...	5.0	3.50
Chlorine in Chlorides ... ..	2.0	1.40
Chlorine $\times 1.647$ equals Sodium Chloride ...	3.29	2.30
Nitrites ... ..	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen as Nitrates ... ..	Nil	Nil
Saline Ammonia ... ..	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	0.0024	0.0016
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37 deg. C. ...	0.016	0.011
Hardness—Total ... ..	13.5	9.45
„ Temporary ... ..	6.0	4.20
„ Permanent ... ..	7.5	5.25
Poisonous Metal—Lead ... ..	Nil	Nil
Iron ... ..	0.06	0.042
Free Carbonic Acid (CO <sub>2</sub> ) ... ..	1.43	1.00

## REMARKS:

From a consideration of the above data, no exception can be taken to the use of this water for domestic purposes, upon chemical grounds.

## SANDHOUSE WELL SUPPLY

## Examination for Special Bacteria :

Coliform bacilli .....	absent in 100 c.c.
Streptococci .....	absent in 100 c.c.
B. Enteritidis Sporogenes .....	absent in 100 c.c.

## Result of Examination :

From a consideration of the above data, no exception can be taken to the use of this water for domestic purposes, upon bacteriological grounds.

8th January, 1938.

## GREAT BRICKHILL WATER SUPPLY

## Physical Characters :

Reaction : Acid.

Colour in 2ft. stratum : Slightly turbid, greenish yellow.

Suspended matters : Slight amount of mineral matter (iron).

Odour when warmed to 37 deg. C.: Nil.

## Chemical Characters :

	Parts per 100,000	Grains per Gallon.
Total solids (dried at 100 deg. C.) ...	18.0	12.60
Loss on ignition (after re-carbonating)	6.5	4.55
Chlorine in Chlorides ... ..	1.95	1.36
Chlorine $\times 1.647$ equals Sodium Chloride	3.20	2.24
Nitrites' ... ..	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen as Nitrates ... ..	1.0	0.70
Saline Ammonia ... ..	0.001	0.0007
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	0.002	0.0014
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37 deg. C.	0.027	0.018
Hardness—Total ... ..	8.0	5.6
„ Temporary ... ..	Nil	Nil
„ Permanent ... ..	8.0	5.6
Poisonous Metals—Lead ... ..	Nil	Nil
„ „ Copper ... ..	Nil	Nil

## REMARKS :

From a consideration of the above data, no exception can be taken to the use of this water for domestic purposes upon Chemical grounds. As the water is soft and has an acid reaction, lead pipes should not be used.



## GREAT BRICKHILL WATER SUPPLY

## Examination for Special Bacteria :

Coliform bacilli .....	present in 100 c.c. (3)
Streptococci .....	absent in 100 c.c.
B. Enteritidis Sporogenes .....	absent in 100 c.c.

## Result of Examination :

The bacterial content shows a good ratio, and the coliform bacilli are probably extraneous in origin.

No exception can be taken to the use of this water for domestic purposes on bacteriological grounds.

11th January, 1938

The water mains in the Urban Area have been extended along a number of outlying roads and approximately 800 yards of 3-inch main has been laid.

During the year, complaints have been made with regard to discolouration of the water. This was due to the presence of small quantities of iron, which were not injurious to health ; in fact, if this place was a spa their presence in the water would be considered an asset.

## ii. Drainage and Sewerage :

The scheme for the provision of a water carriage sewage system for the parish of Water Eaton has still been held up. The delay has been due to the question of the reception and treatment of trade waste. In the meantime, however, a length of approximately 200 yards of 6-inch sewer has been laid in this parish, thus materially decreasing the possibility of nuisance or infection in Water Eaton. This new sewer was connected to the present sewerage system and has proved satisfactory.

Extensions to the sewers in Newton Road have been made with a view to entirely sewerage this part of the Urban Area. Satisfactory arrangements have been agreed with the land-owners concerned in regard to a contribution towards the cost, the general basis being that sewers will be laid in Urban roads upon a contribution of 50 per cent. of that cost by the appropriate frontagers.

A sludge bed has been constructed at Far Bletchley Sewage Works in order to reduce the amount of suspended matter in the final effluent and this has proved to be very successful.

During the year there were many complaints of objectionable smells arising from the main Simpson Outfall Works. Arrangements were made with the owners of certain

trade premises to cease the discharge of their full effluent into the Council's sewers pending investigations, and since the cessation the works have been thoroughly cleaned and chlorinated and there have been no further complaints. Lengthy and complicated investigations have been started by the manufacturers and the Council in order to ascertain whether it will be possible to make satisfactory arrangements to deal with the trade effluent in the scheme for Water Eaton.

Many analyses of the sewage have been made, but as they are the basis for the proposed agreement with the firms, they are not for general publication at the present.

### iii. Rivers and Streams :

The stream from Simpson to the Little Ouzel has been cleansed and since then there has been no flooding, so it is hoped that it has remedied this trouble, which was such a nuisance to the inhabitants of Simpson. The Little Ouzel coming under the care of the Ouze Drainage Board, has been included in the scheme for deepening and cleaning the main stream, so that the danger of future floods has been greatly reduced by these measures.

### iv. Closet Accommodation :

No conversions from privies to water closets have been made during 1937.

### v Public Cleansing :

A new motor vehicle has been added to the Council's cleansing vehicles and the whole of the public cleansing has been carried out on a weekly collection basis using modern covered vehicles.

Disposal was by Destructor and no complaints have been received during the year either as to the manner of collection or disposal. The Destructor has recently been improved by the electrification of the air blower plan, and this has resulted in a considerable increase in burning efficiency.

Trade refuse was collected and disposed of at fixed scales.

### vi. Sanitary Inspector's Report :

Inspections Made.										
Water	.....	84	Housing	.....	93	Buildings	.....	73		
Bakehouses	...	9	Sewerage	.....	69	Destructor	.....	29		
Factories	.....	10	Drainage	.....	126	Smoke	.....	6		
Food Premises			37			Slaughter Houses			97	
			Total Inspections			...			633	
			Houses and Clothing disinfected			...			51	
			Informal Notices			... ..			93	
			Statutory Notices			... ..			—	

## Details of Defects.

Plaster and Ceilings ...	30	Doors ... ..	33
Floors ... ..	26	Windows ... ..	40
Damp Course ... ..	36	Pantry ... ..	4
Stairs ... ..	18	Roof ... ..	22
Spouts ... ..	20	Drains and W.C.s ... ..	23
Paving ... ..	4	Ashbins ... ..	3
Miscellaneous ... ..	68		

## vii. Shops:

Inspections have been made of the shops in the district under Shops Act, 1934, and informal notice only has been required to meet the provisions of this Act.

## viii. Smoke Abatement :

No complaints have been received with regard to smoke arising from chimneys of the brush factories. The previous year, alterations were made by the owners of these factories which apparently remedied a former nuisance.

The fumes from the Brick Works continued to be a source of trouble, but, as was stated in last year's report, the smell was an unavoidable nuisance and that at present nothing could be done to remedy it. Investigations have been continued with a view to finding a cure, but so far the efforts have not materialised in any remedy.

## ix. Swimming Baths and Pools :

(a) There was still no public swimming bath other than the bathing place on the River Ousel. As was stated in last year's report, the conditions here were not satisfactory, and chemical and bacteriological analyses made in July, 1937, bore out the opinion previously expressed.

The report stated :—

## RIVER WATER USED FOR BATHING

## Physical Characters :

Reaction : Alkaline.

Colour in 2ft. stratum : Pale Brown-Green.

Suspended matters : Trace of organic matter.

Odour when warmed to 37 deg. C.: Slightly earthy.

## Chemical Characters :

	Parts per 100,000	Grains per Gallon.
Total solids (dried at 100 deg. C.) ...	38.0	26.6
Loss on ignition (after re-carbonating)	4.25	2.97
Chlorine in Chlorides ... ..	2.40	1.63
Chlorine $\times 1.647$ equals Sodium Chloride	3.95	2.76
Nitrates ... ..	Markedly present.	



Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	0.32	0.22
Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	0.015	0.0105
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0.070	0.049
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hrs. at 37 deg. C.				0.162	0.113

## REMARKS :

Whilst the above figures are normal for a river water, that for albuminoid ammonia is above the desirable maximum of 0.025 parts per 100,000 when used as a swimming bath.

31st July, 1937.

## Bacteriological Findings :

## Examination for Special Bacteria :

Coliform bacilli	.....present in 100 c.c. (approx. 900)
Streptococci	.....not observed in 100 c.c. (approx. 900)
B. Enteritidis Sporogenes	.....present in 50 c.c.

The results obtained are as would be expected in an ordinary river in this country.

Coliform bacilli are present in 0.1 c.c. in some tubes, which renders it unsuitable as a potable water.

Whilst reasonable as a river water, it does not approximate to the standard reached in modern bathing pools, where a potable water (bacteriologically) can be obtained by chlorination.

31st July, 1937.

Owing to the Physical Training and Recreation Act the County Council has been able to promise a substantial grant towards the erection of a swimming bath of approved design, together with a guaranteed yearly sum for the use of the bath for the school children. In view of this offer, the Urban District Council has decided to go forward with a scheme immediately, otherwise so advantageous an opportunity might be missed. Following inspections of several baths, it was decided to have one similar to the Slough Social Centre Bath which was covered in, but with one side which could be opened up in suitable weather, converting it into a semi open-air bath with a sun-bathing veranda. This arrangement gave the bath the very considerable advantages of a covered-in bath, with practically all the amenities of an open-air swimming pool.

(b) There was one privately-owned swimming pool, but it was not for the use of the general public.

## x. Eradication of bed bugs :

One Council house infected and disinfected with Zaldecide by Council.

## xi. Schools :

With the exception of the Bletchley Road Schools, no material changes have been made in the conditions. The Bletchley Road Schools have been reconditioned and additional buildings erected, so that in 1938 there will be Senior, Junior, Infants and Nursery Departments.

## SECTION D.

## HOUSING

## INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

1.		
(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	45
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	78
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	45
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	78
(3)	Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	3
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	0
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .....	34
3	Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—	
	(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	—
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners .....	—
	(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	—
	(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	—
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners .....	—
	(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	—
	(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	11
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	2

- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..... —
  - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..... —
- ! Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding :
- (a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ..... 5
  2. Number of families dwelling therein ..... 5
  3. Number of persons dwelling therein ..... 39
  - (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..... Nil
  - (c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ..... Nil
  2. Number of persons concerned in such cases ..... Nil
  - (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again been overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ..... —
  - (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ..... —

During the year, no new Council houses were erected to deal with the cases of overcrowding, slum clearance, or other people desiring to become tenants. Schemes have now been completed to erect 18 houses, and an actual start in building will be made shortly.

It has been the policy of the housing officials to deal with defects found by informal methods whenever possible. In most cases, the owner remedied the trouble without further action, but in a few cases statutory notices had to be served calling upon the owner to remedy the defects.

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### (a) Milk Supply:

There are 33 farms registered and 29 retailers of milk.

#### (b) Meat:

Seven slaughter-houses were registered,  
 One Bovine carcass condemned for tuberculosis.  
 One Swine carcass condemned for tuberculosis.  
 3 cwt. offals condemned.  
 1 lb. of meat paste condemned.

Regular inspection of animals and meat has been impossible, owing to lack of staff, the number of slaughter-houses, and the varying times of killing. Informal notice was given to four butchers to remedy defects in premises, and resulted in the work being carried out.

(c) Other Foods:

Damaged sugar continued to be sent to the Sugar Refinery to undergo purification before being sent for the manufacture of alcohol.

The food shop keepers in this town, as in the rest of the kingdom, continue to lag behind those in some other countries in regard to the cleanliness of handling and protection of foodstuffs. There is no doubt that a large amount of disease is due to the consumption of food contaminated with the street dust full of bacteria derived from excreta, sputum and other foul sources of infection.

(d) Nutrition:

The nutrition of the children examined in the course of routine school medical inspection was found to be well up to the average.

Nutrition matters were taught at the infant welfare centre and this subject was well to the fore in the Health Exhibition.

## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### 1. General:

During the first three months of the year, Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever were prevalent, whilst the middle of the year was very free from these infectious diseases, but in November and December there were a few cases.

The North Bucks Joint Isolation Hospital at Grove near Linslade continued to deal with the infectious cases from this area. There was no difficulty in getting hospital accommodation with the exception of one case of measles. As the Hospital Board had agreed to admit cases of notifiable infectious diseases and Measles was notifiable in Bletchley under the Bletchley Urban (Measles) Legislation 1936, this refusal led to further negotiations between the Board and the Council. Following discussions, it was arranged that complicated Measles cases would be admitted provided there was suitable accommodation, and should this not be available then arrangements would be made for immediate admission into the isolation hospital at either Aylesbury or High

Wycombe. This arrangement has proved quite adequate so far, but in view of the seriousness of Measles the question of the provision of a Measles block at the Grove Hospital must be considered in the future.

There were 24 cases of diphtheria compared with 35 the previous year. Most of these sufferers were taken ill in the epidemic which commenced in September, 1936, and lasted until April, 1937. Three nasal carriers were detected and in one child with an aural discharge a swab from this discharge revealed Klebs Loeffler Bacilli, but a virulence test proved that they were avirulent in type as is usual from the ear.

During the year, the Council adopted a scheme to protect school children against diphtheria by means of three injections of T.A.F. A start has been made in the Bletchley Road Infants School and the Old Bletchley C. of E. School, and over eighty children have received the valuable protection afforded free of charge by the Council's scheme. This immunization work is still being carried out and extended.

The epidemic of scarlet fever prevailing at the end of 1936 was continued into the first few months of 1937. There were 12 cases of Scarlet Fever notified compared with 32 in the previous year. The cases were mostly mild in character.

There were a few cases of Measles during the year, but there was no widespread nor serious outbreak.



Table Showing Number of Cases Notified and Numbers Admitted to an Isolation Hospital.

Disease.	1936		1937.	
	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital
Diphtheria.....	35 (1 dth)	35	24	24
Scarlet Fever.....	32	12	12	10
Erysipelas.....	3	2	3	1
Puerperal Fever.....	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	2	1	—	—
Pneumonia.....	9	—	5	—



## 2 (a) Prevention of Blindness :

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

## (b) Tuberculosis :

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.



## TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ... ..								
1 ... ..	1							
5 ... ..								
15 ... ..								
25 ... ..	1				2			
35 ... ..	1					1		
45 ... ..								
55 ... ..								
65 and upwards ...								1
Totals ... ..	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	1

In view of the large percentage of early cases of consumption that are cured by modern methods of treatment, it is to be regretted that for various reasons patients put off seeking advice from their doctor until too late, and in a few other cases the doctors fail to discover the disease until it is too far advanced. Amongst the deaths recorded this year from respiratory tuberculosis one died less than fifty days after first notification of the disease and another was not notified during life.

A. MICHAEL CRITCHLEY.

Medical Officer of Health





